

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**April 21, 2017**  
**Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**  
**7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chairperson Wendy White called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Gloria Lanum called roll during the Joint Commission on Services (CSA) to the Aging and State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) meeting and a quorum was present.

**Agenda and Minutes:** The agenda and March minutes were approved during the Joint CSA/SAC meeting by the SAC.

**Present during the SAC meeting held in the Regency Rooms C & D in the Ramada:** Wendy White, Vice Chairperson, Alan Bond, Dennis Brieske, Dave Caudle, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Audra Frye, Debra Johnson, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Gerald McCole, Nicolette McClure, Roy Pentilla, Angie Perone, Patricia Rencher, Gary Scholten, Joseph Sucher, Teresa Vear, Julie Wetherby, Lillie Williams, Kathleen Williams-Newell, Karen Wintringham, John Zimmerman and Ex-Officio Members: Robyn Ford and Elizabeth Thompson

**SAC Chairperson, Commissioner Sheehan** had to attend the entire CSA meeting to vote on business items.

**Excused:** Bozena Bienias, Nellie Blue, Vicente Castellanos, Charles Corwin, Sara Damiano, Mary Engelman, Thomas Hartwig, Pamela McKenna, Donald Ryan, and Susan Vick

**Departed:** John Murphy and Mary Lou Proefrock

**Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff present:** Gloria Lanum and Lauren Swanson-Aprill

**Draft SAC Creative Aging Report Discussion:** Vice Chairperson White led the discussion about the next steps for finalizing the Creative Aging report. The following suggestions were made about the report in general:

- The introduction needs to include the reference to our charge: Creative Aging and a courtesy URL should be developed that easily links to our Creative Aging report and resources.
- URLs or “quick” links need to also be set up for all subtopics to give readers quick access to the information they are interested in finding.
- Some of the web addresses and URLs listed need to have the title of the program they are referencing listed before the web address/URL; an example is Time Steps.

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- Sometimes certain programs like ESTES are mentioned more than once in various sections. Usually that is because some organizations offer a variety of opportunities, which we list. The duplications will be reviewed and will explain that they are included in other sections too.
- The Resource Guide will be checked to be sure all links work and we need to be sure that there is a Michigan section in the Resource Guide.
- We need to move “House of Memories” to the Focused Program, Dementia section.
- Some hard copies of the report should be available.
- Sections should be similar in length and format; the quilting section is long.
- Under the Wellness section, we need to add Senior Olympics.
- Move long-term care and veterans’ info to the Focused Programs section.

The following suggestions to be added to the Recommendation Section of the report:

- A marketing campaign about creative aging with a “snappy” logo should be developed and promoted. We are unable to use anything linked to the *Pure Michigan* campaign.
- At the beginning of the report we should provide a brief explanation as to why there are so many links in this report.
- We should add a link to Sr. Olympics in the Spirituality and Wellness Section.
- Include in the Lifelong Learning Section that Northern Michigan University waives tuition for seniors taking classes.
- Send an Executive Summary in a press release with a link to our report.
- List “no” cost and “low” cost program options.
- Award an older adult 60+ for their art work by the State
- The report should be sent to the following:
  1. The Governor
  2. The Legislature
  3. The Aging Network (AAAs, COAs, Nutrition Meal Sights, etc.)
  4. Long-term care providers
  5. Home Care providers
  6. Community Mental Health Boards
  7. Schools
  8. Religious organizations
  9. Health Care Plans/Health Insurance Companies

**Review of Potential Report Covers:** Vice Chairperson White invited the arts programs in the Midland community who work with older adults, to submit pictures by older adults 60+ to be considered for the front cover of our report. Pictures were reviewed by the SAC and a picture entitled “The Shell Collector” by Robert Iwamas—Age 79 was chosen. A letter of thanks will be sent from the SAC to all of those who submitted pictures to be considered.

**New Business:**

- **Proposed New Vetting Process for SAC Member Applicants and Review of proposed draft letter to SAC Applicants—**The SAC decided to recommend a SAC Member Volunteer Description be developed instead of the draft letter, which will be shared with anyone interested in applying to serve. Additionally, the SAC voted to also recommend to the CSA that a three-member interview panel along with Commissioner Sheehan, Vice Chairperson White and SAC Lead, Lauren Swanson-Aprill interview all SAC applicants using an interview question form to be developed. Three SAC members, Pat Rencher Roy Pentilla, Terry Vear, and one alternate, John Zimmerman, were chosen to serve on the panel.

A draft SAC Member Volunteer Description and draft SAC Applicant Interview Question Form will be developed by Vice Chairperson White, Commissioner Sheehan to be reviewed by the SAC and then provided to the CSA for review. Once the new vetting process is approved by the CSA, a notice will be sent to all 16 AAA directors/staff about the new vetting process and it will be placed on the AASA website's SAC section.

- **Brainstorm Possible SAC Advocacy:** The SAC decided that advocacy issues should be a standing SAC agenda item for all face-to-face meetings. We discussed the idea of nominating two SAC members to recommend to the CSA to interface with the CSA Advocacy Committee to support advocacy efforts. Additionally, SAC members, Joe Sucher (Region 1 B) and Debra Johnson (4) are Michigan Senior Advocates Council members who would be willing to share information with the SAC about the MSAC's advocacy efforts and vice versa.

SAC member Sandy Falk-Michaels recommended that the SAC invite the MSAC lead to our June meeting to learn more about MSAC and their advocacy and the SAC approved this suggestion. **The SAC** voted to support the 2017 Older Michiganians Day platform, which will be shared with Commissioner Wishart and the Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee.

- **Discuss Suggestions for the 2018 SAC Report:** The SAC decided on three top areas they wanted to recommend to the CSA for future SAC research reports.
  1. **Social determinants of health, malnutrition, and access to health care as well as health inequities for older adults.** Look into improving/growing the geriatric nurse practitioner program and volunteer time banking programs (For example: younger older adult volunteers often drive elders to appointments and when the volunteer can no longer drive, a young older adults volunteers to drive them.)
  2. **Elder Isolation.**
    - Socialization (Transportation, Scams/financial exploitation, substance abuse, depression, suicide)
    - Health: (Malnutrition, lack of doctor's visits, lack of medication)
    - Housing options ( helps to potentially combat some of the isolation, grandparents helping grandchildren, seniors helping college students)

**3. Funding Resources for Seniors**

As the Baby Boomers and their parents continue to expand the senior population, the funding sources for their lives is stressed. This report will attempt to provide a detailed look into the array of seniors' personal resources such as savings, retirement and advanced care planning--pensions, 401Ks, and annuities. It will also review federal, state, local government programs, local county millages, philanthropies, non-profit organizations and businesses that are used and available to support and sustain the senior population. The SAC would define the future senior population with statistics and demographics... Who and what are these folks? The report will also address raising awareness with Millennials about saving for the future.

- **Review of Direct Quotation/Fair Use Law: Vice Chairperson White** emphasized the importance of writing summaries of any research completed in our own words using only a few quotations. The SAC asked that the issue be placed on the June agenda for Commissioner Sheehan to address.

**Vice Chairperson Wendy White** adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

**The next SAC Meeting will be held:**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,  
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**